

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 193695
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TAGS: IS, US

SUBJECT:DINITZ CALL ON UNDER SECRETARY HABIB

1. AMBASSADOR DINITZ, ACCOMPANIED BY MINISTER BAR-ON,
CALLED ON UNDER SECRETARY HABIB AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY
ATHERTON ON AUGUST 15 TO DISCUSS THE SECRETARY'S AUGUST 11
MEETINGS IN ARAB CAPITALS, US POSITION ON PLO AND VISIT OF
FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN.

2. AUGUST 11 MEETINGS. HABIB SAID ARAB LEADERS WITH WHOM
THE SECRETARY MET ON AUGUST 11 FOUND SOME SATISFACTION
WITH RESULTS OF SECRETARY'S TRIP. ASSAD WAS LEAST PLEASED
AND WAS EXPECTEDLY CRITICAL OF GOI POSITION AS NOT BEING
FORTHCOMING. SADAT, ON THE OTHER HAND, REMAINED OPTIMISTIC
ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS. ALL OF THE LEADERS

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AGREED TO SEND FOREIGN MINISTERS OR THEIR EQUIVALENT TO
NEW YORK IN SEPTEMBER FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS.

3. PLO. HABIB SAID SAUDIS AND EGYPTIANS HAVE BEEN MEETING
WITH PLO REPRESENTATIVES TO SEEK TO PERSUADE THEM TO ACCEPT
SC RESOLUTION 242 AND RECOGNIZE THE RIGHT OF ALL STATES
IN THE AREA TO EXIST, WHICH IT WOULD HAVE TO BE CLEAR

WOULD INCLUDE ISRAEL. THERE COULD BE NO AMBIGUITY NOR
COULD THE PLO ISSUE ANY SIMULTANEOUS STATEMENTS WHICH WOULD

HAVE THE EFFECT OF NEGATING THEIR STATEMENT ACCEPTING 242.
WE ARE ASKING THE EGYPTIANS AND SAUDIS WHETHER THEY HAVE
ANY REACTION YET. HOWEVER, IT MAY BE SOME TIME BEFORE
WE RECEIVE A DEFINITIVE RESPONSE. IN OUR DISCUSSIONS,
WE MADE IT CLEAR THAT WE DID NOT FAVOR THE AMENDMENT OF
242 AND EXPLICITLY STATED THAT WE WOULD OPPOSE ANY ATTEMPT
TO AMEND THE RESOLUTION. WE ALSO WERE PRECISE IN EX-
PLAINING THAT WE ARE NOT TALKING ABOUT SUCH A STATEMENT
LEADING TO PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION AT GENEVA, WHICH
MUST BE AGREED TO BY ALL THE PARTIESBUT ONLY ABOUT WHAT
IS NECESSARY FOR US TO BEGIN TO TALK TO THE PLO.

4. DINITZ QUESTIONED THE US REASONING FOR DECIDING TO
TALK TO THE PLO. HE SAID THAT HE AND FOREIGN MINISTER
DAYAN ARE UNABLE TO UNDERSTAND US TACTICS. HABIB SAID
THAT, IF ANY DISCUSSIONS TAKE PLACE, WE WILL FIND OUT
IF THERE IS ANYTHING TO TALK TO THE PLO ABOUT. WE HAVE
MADE CLEAR TO THE ARABS THAT THERE IS NO WAY IN WHICH
THE US CAN SUPPORT A SEPARATE PLO DELEGATION AT GENEVA
SINCE WE KNOW THAT THIS IS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO ISRAEL.
OUR BASIC PURPOSE IN TALKING TO THE PLO WOULD BE TO
REDUCE THE DEGREE OF INFLEXIBILITY ON THE ARAB SIDE BY
GIVING THE ARABS SOMETHING THAT THEY HAVE LONG RE-
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COMMENDED TO US. THE FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS OF MIDDLE
EAST PEACE WOULD, OF COURSE, REMAIN FOR THE PARTIES
CONCERNED TO NEGOTIATE.

5. DINITZ SAID HE THOUGHT US DEALING WITH THE PLO WOULD
ENHANCE THEIR STATUS AND WOULD COMPLICATE THE PROBLEM
OF CONVENING GENEVA. HABIB SAID HE THOUGHT, IF US-PLO
TALKS TOOK PLACE, THIS WOULD MAKE IT EASIER TO GET TO
GENEVA BY ENABLING US TO ACHIEVE A REPRESENTATIONAL
ARRANGEMENT WHICH WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO ISRAEL.

6. DAYAN VISIT. DINITZ CONFIRMED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER
AND MRS. DAYAN WILL ARRIVE IN NEW YORK SEPTEMBER 13-14
AND CAN BE IN WASHINGTON THE MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 15.
HABIB POINTED OUT THAT PRIME MINISTER BARRE WILL BE IN
WASHINGTON ON THE 15TH BUT THOUGHT THAT SOME TIME FOR A
MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY THAT DAY WOULD BE POSSIBLE,
WITH MORE EXTENSIVE MEETINGS THE FOLLOWING DAY. WE
WOULD ALSO BE ARRANGING A MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT.
WE WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH THE ISRAELI EMBASSY WITH
DETAILS LATER. HABIB ADDED THAT WE HOPED TO HAVE OUR
TALKS WITH THE ISRAELI AND ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS DURING

THE THIRD WEEK OF SEPTEMBER BEFORE THE START OF THE UNGA
BUT WE COULD CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS, IF NECESSARY, DURING
THE SECRETARY'S UN VISIT IN LATE SEPTEMBER AND EARLY
OCTOBER. VANCE

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